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Westward Ho! for Abalon

In the New-found-land.

As Described by
Captain Richard Whitbourne, of Exmouth, Devon,
1622.



Edited and Illustrated by T. Whitburn,
1870.

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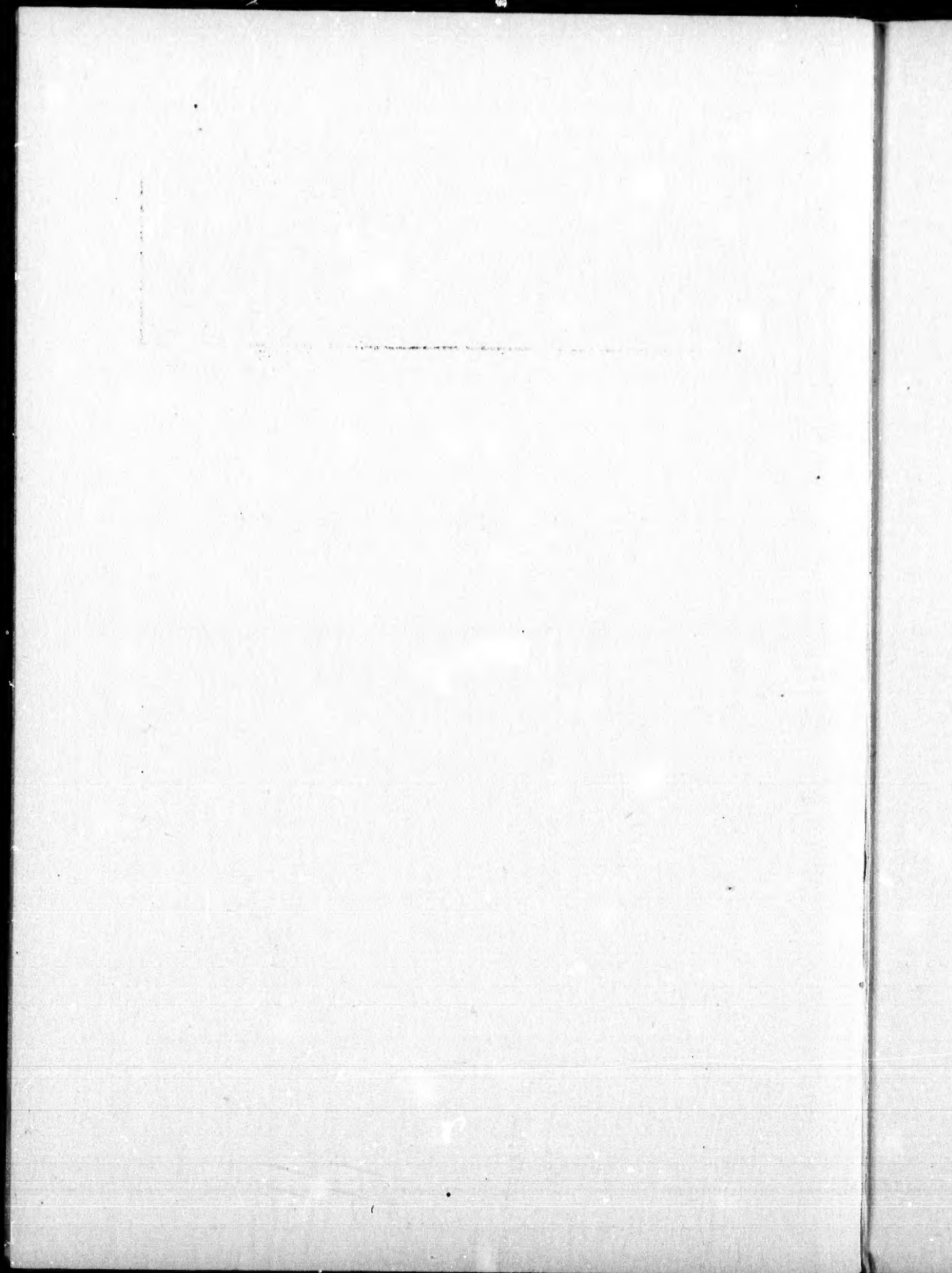


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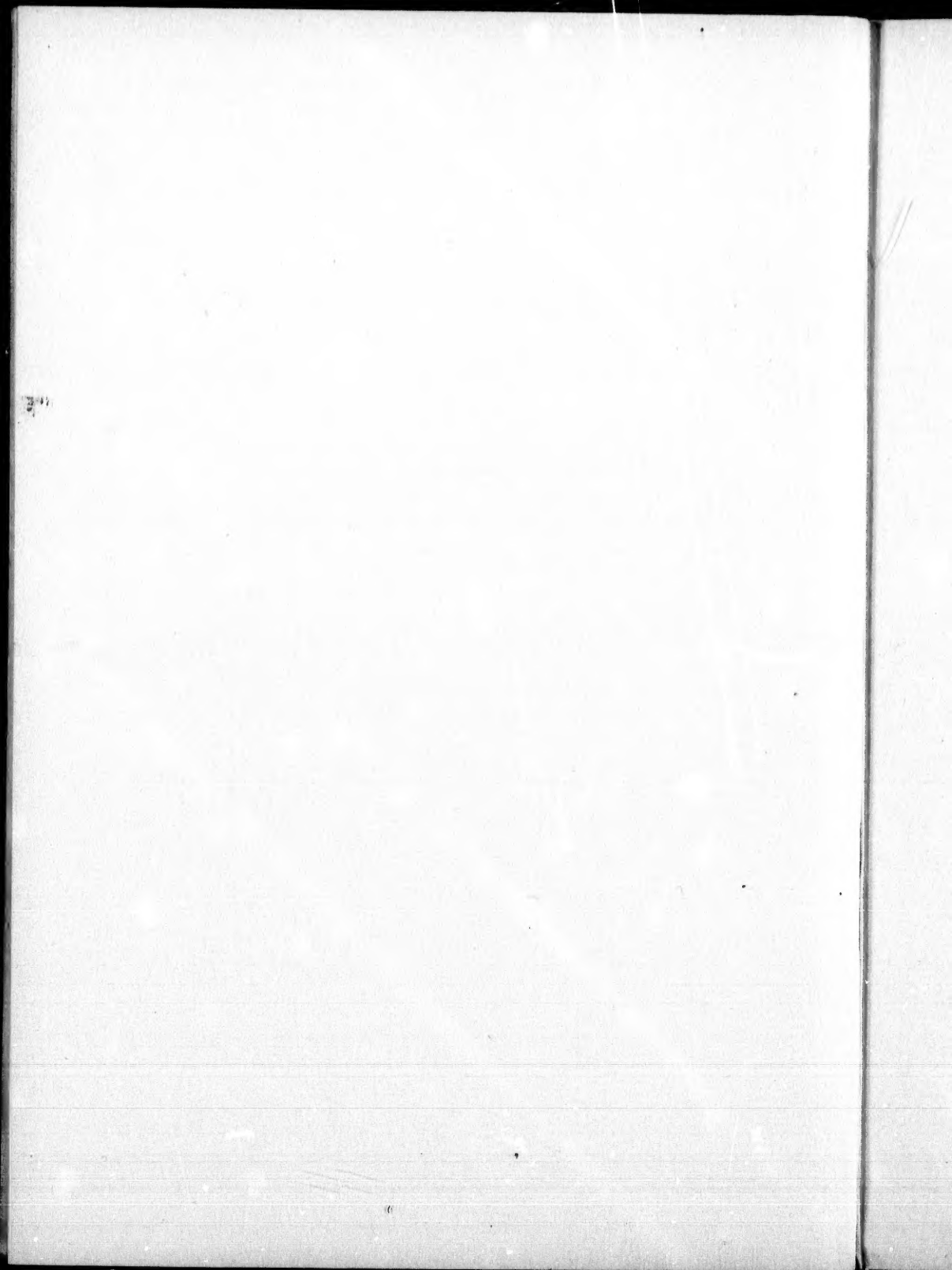




HEN who would liue at home idley, that may bee there imployed, or thinke himselfe worthy to liue only to eate, drinke, and sleepe, and so die ; hauing consumed that carelesly, his friends got worthily, or by vsing that talent miserably, which may thus maintaine vertue honestly ?"—*Captain Richard Whitbourne.*

"*Olivia.* There lies your way, due West.

Viola. Then WESTWARD HOE."—*Shakspeare's "Twelfth Night,"*
Act iii., Sc. i.



“Take water ; keepe aloof from the fhore ; * * * vp with your
fayles, and WESTWARD HOE !”—*Webster's* “Westward Hoe,”
Act iii., Sc. 3.



FEW words on the history of Newfoundland may not be out of place. Discovered (officially) by Sebastian Cabot, in 1497, for Henry VII., fleets for fishing purposes soon frequented its shores. In 1583, Sir Humfrey Gilbert, by patent from Queen Elizabeth, formally annexed it to the British crown, and left a few settlers. Chiefly through Captain Whitbourne's efforts, it was permanently colonized under James I., the "province" being named Avalon, whilst the principal "adventurers" included the Rt. Hon. Henry Cary, Viscount of Falkland, who had received a grant of an extensive "coast circuit" there, and who sent some settlers from Ireland under Sir Francis Tanfill, in 1623, Sir John Calvert, His Majesty's Chief Secretary, "The Wor. John Slany, of London, marchant, some Wor. Citizens of Bristoll, the Wor. William Vaughan, of Taracod, in the county of Carmarthen, Doctor of the Civil Law," and some others.

The colony prospered, but Charles the First, influenced by his queen, permitted the French to fish there on payment of tribute. They, not satisfied with the remission of this tax by the second Charles, and by James, tried

to monopolise the island, were repressed by William, but encroached under Anne. English merchants loudly complained, and disputes were settled by the French definitely renouncing their pretensions to the island in 1713. Particulars respecting Cabot's discovery will be found in the recent valuable account of that great navigator, by J. F. Nicholls, Esq., city librarian, Bristol, whilst the present condition of the colony is spiritedly delineated in Col. R. B. McCrea's "Sketches of Life in Newfoundland, England's ancient colony." From him we learn that at the capital, St. John's, "in proportion to its inhabitants, a larger business is done than at any other colonial city," whilst the harbour ranks as one of our most important "ocean videttes," and may easily be rendered impregnable. The climate, he tells us, is remarkably healthy, and the summer, though short, is delightful. Near the coast are valleys of exceeding beauty. Game, fish, and wild fruits abound. The gardens "bear produce fit for an emperor's table." The people are "kind and social," and Col. McCrea sums up by saying, "My lot has been cast in almost every colony of our vast dominion. Not even excepting dear old Corfu, have three happier years than those (perforce at first, and very willingly afterwards) in Newfoundland been ever spent abroad."



BOOKS, like everything else, have their appointed death-day ; the souls of them, unless they be found worthy of a second birth in a new body, perish with the paper in which they lived.”—*Froude*.



ONE of “England’s forgotten worthies,” Captain Richard Whitbourne belongs to that bold race of Elizabethan seamen who dealt a fatal blow to the naval power of Spain, carried the English flag to the most distant seas, laid the foundation of our maritime supremacy, and made known many of those lands which, colonized by the English race, now form homes of industrious and thriving millions. Of these he may not be in the foremost rank, nor have gained historic fame, but he nevertheless did the State good and substantial service ; and as all honest writing reflects light on contemporary thought and manners, it seemed to me that his work, now rare, deserved a better fate than that of mere oblivion. I therefore offer an abstract of it ; an entire reprint would be tedious. Written

with the express countenance of the king, ordered by the Privy Council to be printed, and recommended by them to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and to the rest of the Bishops, that it might be distributed in the parishes of the kingdom, to inform the people how profitable migration to Newfoundland would be; it contains much matter which, then new, is now needless. Its purpose has been answered; the colony itself testifies to the soundness of the author's views. I take, then, such portions merely as describe either the author's experiences or the island's characteristics, or possess other interest; the dedication, preface, &c., are given, literally, at the end, with the original spelling, which, as in other works of the period, shows that, provided the sound were true, the particular letter employed was in some cases considered unimportant. Who, now-a-days, for instance, could use such license as that of calling in consecutive lines nature's covering for the scalp "hayre," and "haire?" So, in proper names, a letter more or less seemed matter of momentary caprice. Certain words likewise have somewhat changed in meaning. Thus, by "a discovery of Newfoundland," the author implies, not that he first touched at the island, but that he first made widely known the features which fitted it for "plantation" purposes; and when he tells how one of his ships was appropriated by "an English erring captaine (that went forth with Sir Walter Rawleigh)," we see that "erring" implies not so much divergence from moral rectitude (though this too may be comprised in it), as wandering without fixed goal in the way which once caused knights also to be termed errant. As for the work itself, it professes to be, and is, merely a plain account of a land which the author considered ought to develop into an English colony. Thus of personal adventure it tells little. True, the preface is

autobiographical, but that form could not be avoided, for the author had to show his credentials, and he does so with a brevity which is, I venture to think, cause for regret. Thus, to prove that in describing Newfoundland he had not lacked opportunities for comparison, he tells us that he had "been often in France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Savoy, Denmark, Norway, Spruceland, the Canaries, and Soris Islands," whilst to show that his naval experience was of some standing, he says,—

"In the year 1588, I served under the then Lord Admiral, as captain in a ship of my own, set forth at my own charge against the Spanish Armada: and after such time as that service was ended, taking my leave of his Honour, I had his favourable letters to one Sir Robert Dennis, in the county of Devon, Knight, whereby there might be some course taken, that the charge as well of my own Ship, as also of two other, and a Pinnace, with the victuals, and men therein employed, should not be any way burdensome to me. Wherein there was such order given by the then Right Honourable Lords of the Privy Council that the same was well satisfied, which service is to be seen recorded in the Book at Whitehall."

But his visits to Newfoundland, "almost," he says, "so familiarly known to me as my own country," began even before this; for about 1580, he went there "in a worthy ship of the burden of 300 tons, set forth by one Master Cotton, of Southampton;" and some three years later he again went to that coast in command of a ship belonging to "one Master Croke," of the same port. It was on this occasion that he became "an eye-witness" of the taking possession of Newfoundland by "Sir Humfrey Gilbert, a Devonshire knight," under a patent from Queen Elizabeth; in returning from which service Sir Humfrey and his ship were "overwhelmed by the seas, and so perished." Two years after this the author, again in command of a ship off

that coast, met with Sir Bernard Drake, also of Devonshire, who, having a commission backed by divers good ships, "there took many Portugal ships laden with fish, and brought them into England as prizes."

Next, leaping over various other voyages there, the author alights in the year 1612, when, being again on his favourite coast, he fell in with "that famous Arch Pirate Peter Easton," who "had with him ten sail of good ships well furnished, and very rich"—an arch pirate indeed! Now, having turned piracy to such profitable account, the prudent Peter proposed to retire from the profession; and during the eleven weeks our author was kept "under his command," which implies, doubtless, that for such period he could not obtain leave to depart, much edifying discourse took place between them on piracy's wicked ways, and Peter was moved at length to request the author to come to England, where (being rich) he had influential friends, and tell them that he was open to accept a pardon. This the author gladly undertook to do; so, declining "much wealth" which the pirate liberally proffered him ("having no warrant to touch such goods"), he requested merely the release of a ship belonging to one Captain Rashly, of Foy, in Cornwall—a man, he says, "whom I knew but only by report"—which ship the pirate had appropriated off the coast of Guinea. Peter granted the favour instantly, and our author providing men, victuals, and a freight for the ship, sent her home to Dartmouth, in Devon; but, ingratitude being rife then as now, he got for this service not so much as thanks. Giving up, then, his intended commercial voyage to Naples, the author came straight to England to fulfil Easton's behest, but he was forestalled: ere his arrival a pardon had been sent the pirate from Ireland, and so he says, I "lost both my labour

and charges." But did Easton profit as he desired by this fulfilment of his wish? No. The bearer of the pardon was not zealous, it seems, in the repentant pirate's behoof, and by "a too much delaying of time" wore out Easton's patience. So the pirate, leaving the coast of Barbary, where he had promised to hover—doubtless alleviating the tedium of suspense by snapping up maritime trifles—"sailed to the Straights of Gibraltar, and was afterwards entertained by the Duke of Savoy, under whom he lived rich." Thus in that somewhat free and easy time a pirate owning ten good ships rich with gold, and full of fighting men, was evidently a personage whom sovereign princes were by no means prompt to snub.

Two years elapse, and we again find our author off the Newfoundland coast; this time in more respectable company, that of Sir Henry Mainwaring, whose authority was supported by "five good ships strongly provided," and from him the author returned straight to England instead of taking, as he had intended, a commercial trip to Marseilles. That this return was on official business may be inferred from the fact that, in the following year, 1615, he once more sailed to Newfoundland, carrying with him a commission under the great seal of the High Court of Admiralty, authorising him to empanel juries and reform disorders on the coast, and this, he says, "executed wholly at my own charge, hath been at large by me already certified into the High Court of Admiralty;" but, considering that "the same hath been overslipped ever since," it may be judged that "barren honour" was all he gained for his labour. Well for him that he could afford it. But if he possessed substance he also suffered losses. Shylock's enumeration of, among other risks, that from "water rats," smacks of the spirit of the time.

Thus, in 1616, the author's ship of 100 tons, laden from Newfoundland to Lisbon, was rifled by a Rochelle pirate hight Daniel Tibolo, whereby he suffered loss to the extent of £860, in those days no small sum, whilst the master and the company in her were "cruelly handled" to boot. Nor was this all. Having, shortly after, come to an arrangement with "a gentleman" to whom certain patentees had transferred their right to settle people in Newfoundland, the author received from him "a conveyance under his hand and feal for the term of my life, with full power to govern within his circuit upon that coast." So he once more sailed to his well-beloved island in a ship of his own, victualled by a joint stock company, in which he had a share, and they "likewise then did set forth another ship, for a fishing voyage, which also carried some victuals for those people which had been formerly sent to inhabit there: but this ship was intercepted by an English erring captain (that went forth with Sir Walter Rawleigh) who took the master of her, the boatswain, and two other of the best men, with much of her victuals (the rest of the company for fear running into the woods), and so left the ship as a prize; whereby our intended fishing voyages of both our ships were overthrown, and the plantation hindered." In what way an English erring captain differed from a pirate it is somewhat difficult from this sample of procedure, and after this lapse of years, to discover. Possibly the former may have combined traffic with picking and stealing; the latter, not. Balked, then, in his individual efforts for the object he had at heart, the author appeals by his work to the king and the people; not claiming, by any means, a monopoly of credit for calling attention to Newfoundland, but simply stating that no man had hitherto written a detailed description of the island, or "published any fit motives or induce-

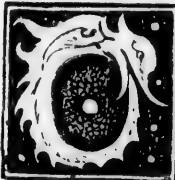
ments whereby to persuade men to adventure or plant there." To this work, he says, his conscience had often prompted him, and he gives what is to us, when we compare, superficially, the relative populousness of England then and now, the curious reason of desiring by it "to stir up many of your Majesty's good and religious subjects duly to weigh the piety, honour, and benefit that will arise from such a work, considering how your Majesty's kingdoms do abound and overflow with people."

In conclusion, he thanks God that, although he had often suffered great losses by pirates and sea rovers, no casualty had ever happened to any ship in which he himself sailed; and he takes this comfort, that if, after more than forty years of naval life, he had reaped little other than the peace of a good conscience, he has at least the knowledge that he had ever been a loyal subject to his prince, whilst he has enjoyed the comfort of never yet in all his time having been "beholding to any doctors' counsel or apothecaries' drugs" for the preservation of his health. He trusts, also, by his work to become an instrument of some public good, and he then commences "the particular relation of the country, &c."

THOMAS WHITBURN.

GUILDFORD, *January*, 1870.



“ RDINARY English traders we find fighting Spanish war-ships in behalf of the Protestant faith. The cruisers of the Spanish main were full of generous eagerness for the conversion of the savage nations to Christianity. And, what is even more surprising, sites for colonization were examined and scrutinised by such men in a lofty statesmanlike spirit, and a ready insight was displayed by them into the indirect effects of a wisely-extended commerce on every highest human interest.”—*Froude*.

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A RELATION OF THE NEW-FOUND-LAND, WITH A MORE AMPLE DISCOVERY OF THAT COUNTRY, THEN EUER WAS YET SET FOORTH TO THE OPEN VIEW; TOGETHER WITH THE BRIEFES OF SUCH PRESENTMENTS, AS WERE THERE TAKEN TO THE VSE OF YOUR MAIESTIE, BY VERTUE OF A COMMISSION VNDER THE BROAD SEALE OF THE ADMIRALTIE, DIRECTED TO ME RICHARD WHITBOURNE.

UCH is the heading to the author's work, and he begins with a description of "the situation of the countrey," which is, he tells us, between 46 and 53 degrees, north latitude, whilst the climate has at least the recommendation of being perfectly healthy. As for "the naturall inhabitants," they are described as but few in

number and as "something rude and sauage people ; hauing neither knowledge of God, nor liuing under any kind of ciuill gouernment. In their habits, customes and manners, they refemble the Indians of the Continent, from whence (I suppose) they come." Still they are said to be "an ingenuous and tractable people (being well vsed)," and as ready to assist in the whale fishery for even small reward. Of the many bays and harbours of the coast, "built by the admirable workmanship of God," the author speaks highly, and he particularly mentions Trinity Harbour, which

"is neere vnto a great Bay lying on the North-side of it, called the Bay of Flowers; to which place no Shippes repaire to fish; partly in regard of fundry Rocks and Ledges lying euen with the water, and full of danger ; but chiefly (as I coniecture) because the sauage people of that countrey doe there inhabite : many of them secretly euery yeere, come into Trinity Bay and Harbour, in the night time, purposely to steale Sailes, Lines, Hatchets, Hookes, Kniues, and such like. And this Bay is not three English miles ouerland from Trinity Bay in many places; which people, if they might be reduced to the knowledge of the true Trinity indeed, no doubt but it would be a most sweet and acceptable sacrifice to God, an euerlasting honour to your Maiefty, and the heauen'iest blessing to those poore Creatures, who are buried in their owne superstitious ignorance. The taske thereof would proue easie, if it were but well begun, and constantly seconded by industrious spirits : and no doubt but God himselfe would set his hand to reare vp and aduance so noble, so pious, and so Christian a building."

The author nexts dilates on "The Fertilitie of the Soyle."

"There the Summer naturally produceth out of the fruitful wombe of the earth, without the labour of man's hand, great plenty of greene peas and Fitches, faire, round, full and wholesome as our Fitches are in England : of which I have there fed on many times : the hawmes of them are good fodder for cattel and other beafts in the winter, with the helpe of Hay ; of which there may be made great store with little labour in diuers places of the Countrey.

"Then haue you there faire Strawberries red and white, and as faire Raspaffeberries, and Goose berries, as there be in England; as also multitudes of Bilberries, which are called by some, Whortes, and many other delicate Berries (which I cannot name) in great abundance.

"There are also many other fruits, as small Peares, fowre Cherries, Filberds, &c. And of these Berries and fruits the store is there so great, that the mariners of my Ship and Barkes company, haue often gathered at once, more then halfe an hogshead would hold; of which diuers times eating their fill I neuer heard of any man, whose health was thereby any way impaired.

"There are also herbes for Sallets and Broth; as Parsley, Alexander, Sorrell, &c. And also flowers, as the red and white Damaske Rose, with other kinds; which are most beautifull and delightfull, both to the sight and smell."

Herbs good for physic are also found, and it had been proved by experiment that "Corn, Cabbage, Carrets, Turneps, Lettice, and such like, proue well there." As for the animals, they comprise, among others, "Deere, Hares, Foxes, Squirrels, Beuers, Wolues, and Beares." And the author now gives "A rare example of the gentle nature of the beafts of that countrey."

"Neither let me seeme ridiculous, to annex a matter of nouelty, rather than waight, to this discourse.

"In the yeere 1615 it was well knowne to 48 persons of my company, and diuers other men, that three seuerall times, the Wolues and beafts of the countrey came downe neere them to the sea-side, where they were labouring about their Fish, howling and making a noise: so that at each time my Mastiffe-dogge went vnto them (as the like in that countrey hath not been seene:) the one began to fawne and play with the other, and so went together into the Woods, and continued with them, euery of these times, nine or ten dayes, and did returne vnto us without any hurt. Hereof I am no way superstitious, yet it is something strange to me, that the wilde beafts, being followed by a sterne Mastiffe-dogge, should grow to a familiaritie with him, seeing their natures are repugnant: surely much rather the people by our discrete and gentle vsage, may be brought to societie, being already naturally inclined thereunto."



Of birds, also, there is no lack, for "the Land-fowle" include "(besides great number of small birds flying vp and downe, some without name, that liue by scraping their food from the earth in the hardest winter that is)" hawks, partridges, and thrushes. The songbirds number "Filladies, Nightingales, and such like, that sing most pleasantly." The birds of prey comprise "Rauens, Gripes, Crowes, &c.," whilst the water-fowl are legion, the most noteworthy being the penguin.

"These Penguins are as bigge as Geese, and flye not, for they haue but a little short wing, and they multiply so infinitely, vpon a certain flat Iland, that men driue them from thence vpon a boord, into their boates by hundreds at a time ; as if God had made the innocency of so poore a creature to become such an admirable instrument for the sustentation of man."

Of scarcely less value are the feathered "oxen and kine,"

"which fowle doe not only feed those that trade thither greatly for foode, but also they are a great furthering to diuers ships voyages, because the abundance of them is such, that the Fishermen doe bait their hookes with the quarters of sea fowle on them : and therewith some ships do yeerely take a great part of their fishing voyages, with such bait, before they can get others."

Fresh water and fuel are said to be abundant. The author suggests the probability of finding mines ; and as for fish, from the whale to the herring the waters swarm with them, the king of the coast being the cod-fish.

"But the chiefe commodity of New-found-land yet knowne, and which is grown to be a settled trade, and that may be much bettered by an orderly Plantation there, (if the Traders thither will take some better course than formerly they haue done, as shall be declared) is the Cod-fishing vpon that Coast, by which our Nation and many other countries are enricht."

By the "French, Biscaines, and Portugals more than 400 faile of ships" are, he says, sent thither, whilst "in the yeere 1615," when the author's Admiralty commission caused him to take special note, our fleet there amounted to "250 faile of ships great and small." Their united bulk is estimated at 150,000 tons. Five thousand persons are said to have manned them. "Every one of these ships, so neere as I could guesse, had about 120,000 fish, and five tunne of Trayne oyle one with another," the value of which, if sold in England, where the prices were lower than on the continent, would "yeeld to your Maiesties subjects better then the summe of 135,000 pound." The author then proceeds to speak of the number of persons indirectly employed by this traffic, and he intimates that, unless the English firmly root themselves on the soil, some other nation will appropriate it, to our great detriment. He next throws out suggestions as to the North-west Passage.

"The English are reputed for the first discoverers of this Countrey : and a Subject of this State, one Sir Humfrey Gilbert (as is touched before) hath long since taken possession thereof, to the vse of your Maiesties royall Crowne ; and that possession hath bin continued by severall Patents and Commissions : so that of right I do conceiue, it appertaineth to your Maiestie, although it be not yet peopled with your Maiesties subjects, notwithstanding the said Patents.

"Neither seemes it impossible to me, but that your Maiestie, and your royall Progenie, may in time annexe vnto your Crowne a great part of the Continent of America, bordering vpon New-found-land, the same lying neerer to your Maiesties kingdoms, then to any other countrey of these our knowne parts of the World : and for the most part of it vnder the same Eleuation of the Pole with vs ; and but little aboue Sixe hundred leagues distance from hence.

"At least I cannot see, but that from hence further Discoveries may be made, and new trades found out, yea peraduenture the supposed Northwest passage : For if it can be proued, or if there be any possibilitie or probabilitie, that there is such a passage, on the Northside of

America towards Iapan and China, which is the opinion of some men, is to lie neere the height of 64 degrees: the fitteft place from whence to proceed to that Discouerie, is (in my opinion) the New-found-land. And for thofe that hencefoorth attempt to fearch that ftraight or paffage, to fet forth fooner and more early, then heretofore they haue done, and to faile directly to fome conuenient Harbour in New-found-land, there to refresh themselves with fuch prouifion as fhall be needfull; and fo put out from thence about the twentieth day of May (if it be once fet in a faire Wefterly winde,) and to faile along the North part of New-found-land, and that coaft which is called Cambaleu, continuing that Northerly courfe vnto 64, which is but 15 degrees from Trinity Harbour; and it may be failed in leffe than fixe dayes, with a faire Wefterly winde, which commonly maketh a cleere coaft all along to the North, both from fogges and Ice alfo; both which are violent hinderers to men that haue vndertaken thefe voyages. For coming to feeke out thofe ftraights or paffages, with a large Easterly, Southerly, or Northerly winde, which commonly bring on that Coaft the fogges and Ice, and comming fo late in the fummer, they haue thereby loft the aduantage and benefit of time for finding out fo happy a bufineffe."

The author then points out that the "countrey may be made a place of great vfe and aduantage, for this ftate in any action, that may ingage vs by way of attempt or defence, in regard of thofe parts of the world." He ftates that the fituation is convenient for fhips to refit in returning from Virginia and the Bermudas, and he recommends migration thither as a remedy for our plethora of population.

"Besides all this, it would be a great eafe to all the reft of your Maiefties fubiefts, if fome part of our fuperabounding multitudes were tranfplanted into New-found-land; for besides the great number of idle perfons that liue here, fpending their time in drinking and other exceffes, among which many of your New-found-land men may be reckoned, during the winter feafon, whilft they are at home: There are many thoufands of poore people of both fexes, which might be fpared out of all your Maiefties Dominions, who liuing penuriously, and in great want, would be perfwaded to remove their dwelling into New-found-land, where they might not onely free themfelues of their prefent miferies, but alfo by their induftrie, in time enrich themfelues, and

deferue well of the State by their imploiments; for there is yeerely great abundance of good fish lost for want of labourers, and other good things also."

Another beneficial result, too, will follow from this proposed plantation, namely, proper commercial regulations; for now, the author complains, mariners set forth at "the foulest time in the yeere" in order that by arriving first in harbour they may enjoy "the name of Admirall that yeere" with corresponding advantages. Thus by undue haste among fogs and ice "many times both ships and men haue been suddenly cast away, to the vtter vndoing of many Adventurers, and families. So had I myfelfe a ship lost failing to that Countrey, and diuers others the like."

Nor is this all. "The first arrivers there" oftentimes wantonly destroy not only the houses or rooms used for drying the fish, but also such fishing pinnaces as they find, thus causing great loss to after-comers, all which improprieties a plantation with proper rule would prevent. From every ship, then, the author proposes that a certain proportion of men (six out of thirty) should be left; a procedure which "wil foone raife many people to be settled in euery Harbour where our Nation vfeth to fish, and in other Harbours there also in little time." Thus the profits will be largely increased, and a broad line will be drawn between those who have a permanent interest in the colony and mere traffickers to and fro.

There is another point also on which the author, in capacity of merchant rather than mariner, speaks feelingly.

"The allowance of victuall to maintaine euery fixe men, to carry and recarry them outwards bound and homewards, is fixe hogheads of beere, and fixe hundred waight of bread, besides beefe and other provision; which men, when they faile to and fro (as now they vse) doe little good or any seruice at all, but pester the ship in which they are,

with their bread, beere, water, wood, victuall, fish, chests, and diuers other trumperies, that euery such fixe men doe cumber the ship withall yeerely from thence : which men, when the voyage is made, may be accounted vnneccessary persons returning yeerly from thence."

See, too, how much more fish the ships would hold when not "pestered" with "such vnprofitable things," whilst the men left in the country may if industrious (an important proviso) "gaine twice as much in the absence of the ships that leaue them there." Hitherto the class of settler had not been of good report.

"For certainly I haue already seene and knowne by experience, that the desired Plantation can neuer bee made beneficiall by such idle persons, as I found there the yeere 1618 when I was there with power, by vertue of a graunt from the Patentees, which people had remained there a whole yeere, before I came neare, or knew any of them ; and neuer applied themselues to any commendable thing, no not so much as to make themselues an house to lodge in, but lay in such cold and simple roomes all the winter, as the Fishermen had formerly built there for their necessary occasions, the yeere before those men arriued there."

This negligence filled the author with disgust.

"Yet entring into confideration, how iniurious I should be to God, and (as I did conceiue in my conscience) trecherous to your Maiefty, and my countrey, hauing once as it were laid hold on y<sup>e</sup> plough, I should take it off and looke backe : I did then encourage my retiring spirits ; notwithstanding all my former wrongs then sustained. And although I found those people that were so formerly sent to plant, so unfit for that seruice, I did not only confider of the fittest course whereby to aduance that work, which was formerly so worthily intended ; but also truly and plainly to write this Discouery, as now I haue, how commodiously & beneficially it may be proceeded on ; and so shipped some of them to returne home againe, and gaue others leave to depart, all, excepting fixe only ; to whom I gaue directions for building an house, and imploying themselves, otherwise than formerly they had done, vntill they heard from the gentleman that sent them thither : And so they liued there pleasantly all the next winter."

By leaving a certain percentage of seamen on the coast the number employed will be increased, the author estimates, by about a thousand a year; and, whereas but two hundred and fifty English ships then traded thither, he anticipates that the number will speedily swell to four hundred sail. Great, too, is his vexation at the wilful waste in which some of his countrymen there indulge, by cutting down and destroying the fine timber growing near the coast; nay, more lamentable still, "the Harbours and Rodes in Newfoundland, that are so beautifull and excellent, ordained by God for ships to ride safe in at anchor," were actually suffering grievous injury through "the exceeding great stones," used by the fishermen "to presse their drie fish in their ships," being thrown by these improvident anglers "within three fadome of water," greatly to the detriment of ships and cables, an evil which called loudly for redress. The author then tells capitalists who may be unwilling to bestir themselves personally in this traffic, that it is possible for them to do so by proxy, and he intimates that this advice must not be classed with that of such imaginative mariners as would persuade them

"that on the coast of Guinnie there, they might gather vp gold along the sea-shore, washed vp by the sea in great abundance; and likewise if they would aduenture to the West Indies, there they should load their ships with Wheele-barrowes, and then share it by the pound; and such like proiects."

To encourage such as feel inclined to profit by the author's counsel, he now gives detailed directions by which their course may be shaped; and, among other neglected sources of gain, he mentions the manufacture of salt for curing the fish, which can easily be done on the Newfoundland coast, to the saving of the sum annually paid for this commodity to Spain, Portugal, and France. Moreover,



service on this coast is much healthier than on that of the Indies ; and if the English settle here, the author anticipates that the fishing trade will fall almost wholly into their hands. Not that he would prevent foreigners from fishing if they chose, but that he believed they would eventually find it more to their profit to buy fish than to catch them. Settlers, too, might derive some gain from trade in furs. Again,

“for trading thither and returning home thence, wee little feare the Turkes bondage and circumcission, nor any outlandish Inquisition, nor the Imbarkements of any Prince, nor such contagious heates as those finde that trade neere the Lyne, neither the danger and hurt of Art-wormes, wherewith ships that trade to most parts southward are sometimes much hurt, nor many other hazards & inconueniences, to which some of our other tradings are subiect.”

Such as purpose going there are cheered by the prospect of being “farre from any of the Plantations of the King of Spaine,” and of seeing numbers of their countrymen every year. Of “Pyrats,” however, there was some small risk ; but “two good Ships of Warre, of 200 tunne apiece, and two Pinnaces of 40 tunne apiece well prouided” would amply suffice for protection (against a Peter Easton ?), and the cost might easily be defrayed by a small percentage on the fishing profits. This method was adopted by the Dutch greatly to their benefit. Various harbours fit to receive settlers are now enumerated by the author ; and as for the cold, of which some, through report, entertained a nervous dread, he invites his readers to reflect on “the great colde that is at times in Muscouia, Sweidon, Norway, Spruceland, Poland, Denmarke, and other Easterne and Northerne parts of the world, where the people liue well and grow rich ;” and he drives his argument home thus :—

“It hath beene in some winters so hard frozen in the Riuer of Thames, aboue London-bridge near the Court, that the tenderest faire Ladies and

gentlewomen that are in any part of the world, who haue beheld it, and great numbers of people, haue there sported on the ice many dayes together, and haue felt it colder there, then men doe that liue in Newfoundland."

To the truth of the author's statement concerning Newfoundland temperature, "one Master John Guy, late Maior of the Citie of Bristoll, that liued there two yeeres together," can certify.

Icebergs and fogs are next noticed, and reasons are given for their prevalence; whilst such parts of the island as are "rockie & mountainous" are said by the author to be no worse than sites seen by him in Norway, Biscay, Portugal and Spain. Still, at times, the objections raised to his favourite project seem to have inclined him to despond. But he takes comfort from reflecting on the patience of Columbus.

"And although that fithence I prefumed to write this Discourse, I haue been often dishartened from proceeding herein: Yet, when I did remember Columbus his good inducours, that first and patient Discouerer of the West Indies, whom, if God had not hartened him on with a worthy minde, and a bofome armed for all the stormes of crosse fortunes, he had neuer finished that Honourable attempt for finding such an happy bufinesse out, the which Discouery of his hath euer since filled the Spanish Cofers with gold and filuer, and made that Nation Lords of the greatest riches vnder the Sunne: and although that attempt of his was held at first impossible to come to any good effect, & Columbus laught at by some: yet euer fithēce, by his attempt I may say, that Spaine hath had frō thence to helpe to furnish other Cristian Kingdomes with gold, filuer, and diuers other great riches; and also now to that country so discouered, those commodities that great Brittainē may yeerely well spare, and other Countries also, are the better vented: and so likewise may be the New-found-land and the parts of America, neere therēunto, proue beneficiall for diuers trades in little time."

Now, drawing near the end of his "discovery," the author

touches on his official voyage to Newfoundland, when he set forth from "the Port of Exceter, in the County of Deuon, on the 11 day of May 1615 in a Bark viſtalled and manned with 11 men and boyes at my owne charge." On the fourth of June, being Trinity Sunday, he anchored in Trinity Harbour, and there, "in the name of the holy and indiuiduall Trinity," he called together, by virtue of his commission, the masters of the English ships there lying, and "ſo began to hold the firſt Court of Admiralty in your Maieſties name, that euer was (as I beleeeue) holden in that Countrey to the uſe of any Chriſtian Prince, and proceeded therein according to courſe of Lawe, as the tenor of my Commiſſion did warrant me therein; and alſo in other Harbors of the ſaid Coaſt I did the like." Having carefully inquired into the diſorders committed on the coaſt, the masters of a hundred and ſeventy English ſhips delivered to the author, under their hands and ſeals, their "preſentments," which, in turn, he transferred to the High Court of Admiralty. Theſe preſentments are ſummarised under twelve heads, and they comprise—Non-obſervance of the Sabbath day; injury to the harbours, by caſting into them large ſtones; ſtealing boats and gear; deſtroying fiſhing-ſtages and huts; monopoly of convenient ſpace; entering the ſervice of other countries; burning down the woods; and laſtly, idleneſs, which was conſidered, doubtleſs, the parent of pretty nearly all the foregoing evils.

Having thus put on record their opinions, they decreed that theſe diſorders ſhould ceaſe—a laudable reſolution, which, with no tribunal to enforce it, was, it is to be feared, for ſome time at leaſt, impotent. Next, gathering the threads of his "diſcovery" together, the author thanks God that he had been permitted to deſcribe the many benefits to his countrymen which colonization of the iſland would

produce ; and he concludes by appealing to the king and to the people thus :—

“ And these excellent benefits distribute themselves, between your Maiestie and your Subiects : your Highnesse part will be the Honour of the Action ; the accesse of Territory, increase of strength and power, aduantage against other Princes, augmentation of Reuenue, and ease of your Maiesties Kingdomes, &c. The Subiects part will be the bettering and securing of their Trade ; enriching of themselves ; reliefe of other Trades ; and a meanes of further Discoueries.

“ But these two haue a relation and dependency, the one on the other, that neither can subsist without the other. I will not therefore diuide your Maiestie from your Subiects ; your Highnesse prosperitie being their happinesse ; and their wealth, your Maiesties riches.

“ The first thing which is to be hoped for, and which hath euer been your Maiesties principall care, is the propagation of the Christian faith : and by that meanes onely, the poore vnbeleeuing Inhabitants of that Countrey may be brought to the knowledge of God, and a ciuill kinde of gouernement : and it is not a thing impossible, but that from those slender beginnings which may bee made in New-found-land, all the regions adioyning (which betweene this place, and the countries actually possessed by the King of Spaine, and to the north of New-found-land, are so spacious as all Europe) may be conuerted to the true worship of God.

“ The next is, the vniting of a Countrey so beneficiall already, and so promising vnto your Maiesties Crowne, without bloodshed, charge, or vsurpation, which must needs be a perpetuall Honour to your Maiestie, in all succeeding ages ; neither will it be an Honour onely to your Highnesse, but a benefit to the State, by a new accesse of Dominion. And what Prince can enlarge his Territories by a more easie and more iust meanes then this, seeing that of right it appertaineth to your Maiestie, and therefore deserues to be embraced ?

“ Now if it please your most excellent Maiestie not onely to lend your eare to a Project of this nature, but also to approue the matter projected, and vouchsafe the furtherance therein, the which out of my foules deuotion, and zealous affection to do seruice to your Maiestie and your Kingdomes, I tender on my knees ; most humbly beseeching your Highnesse, both to accept of my honest and zealous intent, as also to pardon my boldnesse and presumption therein ; for it is, and so

hath euer been my resolution, rather to beare the burden of pouerty, than iustly to deferue, or giue cause of reproach ; and to subiect all the dayes of my life, and the manifold dangers thereof, thereby to approue my selfe a profitable member, both to your Maiestie, and to my countrey that gaue mee my first breath ; for which onely cause I haue adventured to publish this my simple and plaine Discourse, whereunto my very conscience hath a long time, and still doth not forbear to sollicite me.

“ The prosecution and perfection of the worke, I leaue to the pleasure of God, and your Maiesties happy directions, in the discourse and discovery whereof, if I haue either been tedious, or any other way offensive, it is to be imputed to my want of learning : and so, though perhaps I doe not satisfie some men’s curiosities, yet I hope I haue sufficiently informed their iudgements ; and beseech God to incline their affections to the furtherance of so pious and so profitable a businesse, as this appeareth to be.

“ And so I rest, and euer will remaine, a faithfull and loyall Subject to your Maiestie, an hearty and true louer of my Countrey, and a zealous wellwisher to this intended plantation.

“ RICHARD WHITBOURNE.’









*At THEOBALDS, the 12 of Aprill 1622.*



HE COPY OF A REFERENCE FROM THE KINGS MOST EXCELLENT MAIESTY: AS ALSO A LETTER FROM THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORDS OF HIS MAIESTIES MOST HONOURABLE PRIUY COUNCELL, TO THE MOST REUEREND FATHERS IN GOD, THE LORDS ARCHBISHOPS OF CANTERBURY AND YORKE THEIR GRACES.



IS Maiefty is graciously pleased, that the Lord's Archbishops of Canterbury and Yorke, doe in their feuerall Prouinces proceed according to the Letters of the Lords of the Councell, bearing date the last of June 1621, as well in recommending Captain *Whitbourne's* discourse concerning *New-found-land*, so as the same may be distributed to the feuerall Parishes of this Kingdome, for the incouragement of Adventurers vnto the Plantation there; As also by furthering (in the most fauorable and effectuell maner they can) the collections to be thereupon made in all the said Parishes, towards the charge of printing and distributing these bookes, and the said Captaine *Whitbourne's* good endeaours, and seruice with expence of his time and meanes in the aduancing of the said Plantation; and his feuerall great losses receiued at Sea by Pyrats and otherwise, of which his Maiefty hath bene credibly certified. And further his Maiesties pleasure is that the said Captaine *Whitbourne* shall haue the sole printing of his booke for one-and-twenty yeeres.

*God saue the King.*



FTER our very hearty commendations to your good Lordships, whereas Captaine Richard Whitbourne of Exmouth in the county of Deuon, Gentleman, hauing spent much time in Newfoundland (whither he hath made fundry voyages and some by expresse commissions) hath set downe in wryting diuers good obseruations and notes touching the state and condition of that country, and the plantation there, which being by order from vs now printed: It is desired to be published throughout the Kingdome, for the furthering and aduancement of the said Plantation, and to giue encouragement to such as shall be willing to aduenture therein, and assist the same, either in their persons or otherwise, to which we thinke the publication of this booke may much conduce. And we doe giue good approbation to his good indeauours and purpose. So haue we thought fit earnestly to recommend him vnto your Lordships good fauours, both for the distribution of his Books within the Prouinces of Canterbury and Yorke, vnto the feuerall Parishes thereof, and also for your Lordships helpe and furtherance, that after his great trauels and charges, wherein he hath spent much of his time and meanes, hauing long time been a Merchant of good estate, he may reape by your Lordships assistance some profit of his labours, and towards the printing and distributing the said Bookes by such a voluntary contribution, as

shalbe willingly giuen and collected for him within the feuerall parish churches of the said Prouinces: which will be both a good encouragement vnto others in the like indeauours for the seruice of their country and some reward to him for his great charge, trauels, and diuers losses at sea which he hath receiued, as we are credibly certified. And so recommending him earnestly to your good Lordships, We bid your Lordships very heartily farewell. From Whitehall the last day of June 1621.

Signed by the

Lord Treasurer, Lord Priuie Seale, Duke of Lenoxe, Marqueffe Hambleton, Earle of Arundell, Earle of Kelley, Lord Viscount Doncaster, Lord Viscount Falkland, Master Treasurer, Master Secretary Calvert, Master of the Rolles.



TO THE HIGH AND MIGHTIE PRINCE, JAMES, BY THE GRACE OF  
 GOD, KING OF GREAT BRITTAINE, FRANCE, AND IRELANDE,  
 DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, ETC.

*Most Dread Soueraigne*

**I**T hath alwaies been my chiefeſt studie and practice, to ſerue your Maieſtie and my Countrey: the intent of my beſt labors that way, I haue put into the following Diſcouery, and, vpon good approbation thereof by diuers of your Maieſties moſt Honourable Priuy Councell, haue bene encouraged to offer vp the ſame Worke vnto your Ma.eſtie. I confeſſe my weakneſſe ſuch, that I cannot put ſo fit a garment vpon it, either of ſtile or method, as I conceiue the matter itſelfe deſerueth. The ſubſtance of the worke, I ſubmit to your Maieſties wiſdome and iudgement; the errors and things needleſſe, to your Highneſſe pardon. The purpoſe thereof, is, with your Gracious allowance, to beget a diſpoſition in all your Maieſties Subiects, for a Plantation in the New-found-land, grounded vpon reaſon of induſtry, both generally and particularly profitable to the Vndertakers and Poſterities, as well in matters of wealth, as alſo the meanes for increaſe of Defence and Power; which will the better goe forward, when your Maieſties Sub-

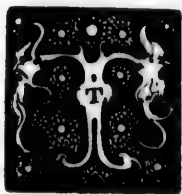
jects are made acquainted, with what facility it may be vndertaken ; and so to worke the more effectuall impression in them, when they shall vnderstand, that it is an Iland, neere as spacious as Ireland, and lieth so far distant from the Continent of America, as England is from the neereſt part of France, and neere halfe the way between Ireland and Virginia, and the moſt part of it about three degrees nearer the South than England, and hath been already well approved by ſuch of your Maieſties Subjects as have liued there about ten yeeres, that the Countrey is very healthfull and pleaſant in the Winter. How commodious and beneficially that Land may be peopled with ſmall charge, and proue profitable to the Vndertakers, and not hurtfull to any of your Maieſties Subiects, the following Diſcourſe will make it plainly appeare, the which was preſented vnto your Maieſtie at Huntingdon in October laſt ; ſince which time, it hath pleaſed ſuch of the Lords of your Maieſties moſt Honourable Priuy Councell, at Whitehall, the 24 of July laſt then preſent, to giue mee encouragement with their good approbation thereunto ; and ordered, that the booke ſhould be printed, with this further addition of their Honours ſavour, to be recommended to the Lord Archbiſhop of Canterbury, and the reſt of the Lords Biſhops, to be diſtributed to the ſeueral Pariſhes of your Maieſties Kingdome, for the better encouragement of ſuch as ſhall be willing to aſſiſt that Plantation, either in their perſons or otherwiſe. And if your Maieſties Subiects put it in triall to vndertake ; I truſt, God will giue a bleſſing to the ſucceſſe, whereof I haue only made a true and plaine Relation of the truth : if I ſhould write other than the truth, there are many in your Maieſties Kingdomes that haue often traded to that Countrey, whom I ſuppoſe will be ready to diſproue me.

Thus being loth to be too tedious, I moſt humbly recommend to God, and to your Maieſtie, my endeouours, the ſucceſſe thereof, and my poore ſelfe,

Your Maieſties moſt humble

and faithfull Subiect

RICHARD WHITBOVRNE.



O HIS MAIESTIES GOOD SUBIECTS.



HAVING had my breeding for many yeeres together in the courses of Marchandizing and Nauigation, I haue, through the expence of my tyme in that calling, set this downe to my selfe, for my duty therein, to obserue and collect, wherein my labours might become profitable to my Countrey ; and the rather, because I could not be ignorant, how much the maintenance and increafe of Shipping and Mariners concerns us, who may fitly be stiled The nation of the Sea ; which generall reasons were more and more commended to me, by more particular considerations offered me, in the notice I took of the disposition and affaires of other States, to which ours hath relation ; some poynts whereof cannot now seasonably be mentioned ; some others proper to what I discourse of, will present themselves in their places, as I shall goe along in giuing account of my endeouours.

Among my vndertakings and imployments in seafaring, the most part haue been to an Iland, called *New-found-land*, in part heretofore outwardly discovered, but neuer looked into by those discoverers as it deserued ; from the beginning I found it promise well, in respect of the

purpose, I had to gather something for the bettering of the Commonwealth; and the more I made tryall of it, the more satisfaction it gaue me. Therefore I affected that course better than any other I fell vnto; inso much as I did so fix my industrie vpon it, that for the qualifying of my trauels, I obtained Commission of the State to proceede in it, and am now come to propound to my countrey men the benefit they may make of an orderly Plantation and Traffique there: the following Discourse will satisfie them if they will forgiue the vnhandfomenes of the forme it is put into, and look into the matter it selfe only.

The Iland of New-found-land is large, temperate and fruitfull, the fruitfulness of it consisting not only in things of sustenance for those that shall inhabite it, but in many sorts of Commodities likewise of good use and valew to be transported. The Natiues in it are ingenuous, and apt by discrete and moderate governments to be brought to obedience. The seat is fit for Harbour and reliefe, vpon the way betweene vs and Virginia, and consequently of aduantage to vs in any action that may engage us, either by way of offence or attempt, in regard of those parts of the World. The Seas are so rich, as they are able to aduance a great Trade of Fishing; which, with God's blessing, will become very seruiceable to the Nauie; and the increase of Fishing there, cannot despaire of finding Portes enow to vent the commoditie at profitable rates.

Now if you would vnderstand what motiues wee haue at home with vs to carry vs thither, doe but looke vpon the populousness of our Countrey, to what a surfet of multitude it is subiect; consider how charitable for those that goe, and how much ease it will be for those that stay, to put forth some of our numbers to such an employment of liuing. Compare the English nature with others; and finde whether wee haue not as much courage as they both to vndertake and maintaine; only wee lose it in hauing lesse industry. Turne then towards the Lowe Countries; behold how they haue wonne vpon us, by taking aduantage of our sitting still; (and most remarkable in this point of fishing) which if their Audit were published, would be found (I beleeeue) one of the best Agents they haue, both for their strength and wealth.

There is another motiue also, which amongst our Auncestors was wont to finde good respect, namely, the honour of the action, by the enlarging of Dominions; and that which will crowne the worke, will be the aduancement of the honour of God, in bringing poore Infidels (the Natiues of that Countrey) to his Worship and their own saluation.



I commend the designe to the entertainement of his Maiestie and his Kingdomes : because I esteeme it such a one as deserues, not only to be vndertaken, but to be gone thorow withall.

And as it is a Proiect of no fantasie in mee, but a truth grounded vpon a well-weighed experience ; so haue I not prefumed to publish it but vpon good approbation, as hath already appeared.

If these considerations, with many others here omitted, but contained in the ensuing Discourse, may worke an impression in the affections of his Maiesties subiects, for the aduancement of God's glory, their owne and their Countries prosperity, it shall be some content toward the great paines, losses of time, and expence of my meanes that I haue sustained in the prosecuting thereof, for which I trust you will at least returne your thankfull acceptance ; and so I remaine

Your louing friend

R. W.



ALTHOUGH I well know, that it is an hard matter to perfwade people to aduenture into strange Countries ; especially to remaine and settle themfelues there, though the conditions thereof be neuer fo beneficiall and aduantageous for them : yet I cannot be out of all hope, that when it fhall be taken into confideration, what infinite riches and aduantages other

Nations (and in particular the Spaniards and Portugals) haue gotten to themfelues by their many Plantations, not onely in America, but alfo in Barbary, Guinnie, Binnie, and other places : And when it fhall plainly appeare, by the following Discourse, that the countrey of New-found-land (as it is here truely described) is little inferior to any other for the Commodities thereof ; and lies, as it were with open armes towards England, offering itfelfe to be imbraced, and inhabited by vs ; I cannot be out of hope (I fay) but that my Countrymen will be induced, either by thriuing examples of others, or by the strength of reafon, to hearken, and put to their helping hands to that, which will in all likelyhood yeeld them a plentifull reward of their labors. Before I enter into a difcourfe of the countrey itfelfe, I hold it fit to make knowne partly the meanes and degrees, whereby I attained vnto the experience and knowledge I haue thereof.

And firft, for mine owne poore eftate and condition, it is well-knowne that my breeding and courfe of life hath been fuch, as that I haue long time fet many people on worke, and fpend moft of my dayes in trauell, fpecially in Merchandizing, and Sea Voyages. I haue been often in France, Spaine, Italy, Portugall, Sauoy, Denmarke, Norway, Spruceland, the Canaries, and Soris Ilands : and for the New-found-land, it is almoft fo familiarly knowne to me as my owne Countrey.

In the yeere 1588, I serued vnder the then Lord Admirall, as Capitaine in a ship of my owne, set foorth at my charge against the Spanishe Armada : and after such time as that seruice was ended, taking my leaue of his Honour, I had his fauourable Letters to one Sir Robert Dennis, in the County of Deuon, Knight ; whereby there might bee some course taken, that the charge as well of my owne ship, as also of two other, and a Pinnace, with the victuals, and men therein employed, should not be any way burthenfome to me. Wherein there was such order giuen by the then right Honourable Lords of the priuie Councell, that the same was well satisfied ; which seruice is to bee seene recorded in the Booke at White-Hall.

Now, to expresse some of my Voyages to the New-found-land, which make most for the present purpose .

My first Voyage thither, was about 40. yeeres since, in a worthy ship of the burthen of 300. Tunne, set forth by one Master Cotton of South-hampton ; we were bound to the grand Bay (which lieth on the North-side of that Land,) purposing there to trade then with the Sauage people (for whom we carried fundry commodities) and to kill Whales, and to make Trayne oyle, as the Biscaines doe there yeerely in great abundance. But this our intended Voyage was ouerthrowne, by the indiscretion of our Capitaine, and faint-heartednesse of some gentlemen of our company: whereupon we set saile from thence, and bare with Trinity Harbor in New-found-land : where we killed great store of Fish, Deere, Beares, Beauers, Seales, Otters, and such like, with abundance of Sea-fowle, and so returning for England, we arriued safe at South-hampton.

In a voyage to that Countrey about 36. yeeres since, I had then the command of a worthy ship of 220. Tun, set forth by one Master Croke of South-hampton : At that time Sir Humfrey Gilbert, a Deuonshire Knight, came thither with two good Ships and a Pinnace, and brought with him a large Patent, from the late most renowned Queene Elizabeth, and in her name took possession of that Countrey, in the Harbour of S. Johns, whereof I was an eye-witnesse. He sailed from thence towards Virginia ; and by reason of some vnhappy direction in his course, the greatest ship he had, stricke vpon Shelues, on the Coast of Canadie, and was there lost, with most part of the company in her : And hee himselfe being then in a small Pinnace of 20. Tun, in the Company of his Vice-Admiral (one Captain Hayes) returning towards England, in a great storme, was ouerwhelmed with the Seas, and so perished.

In another voyage I made thither, about 34. yeeres past, wherein I

had the command of a good ship partly mine owne; at that time one Sir Bernard Drake of Deuonshire, Knight, came thither with a Commission, and hauing diuers good Ships vnder his command, he there tooke many Portugall Ships laden with fish, and brought them into England as Prizes.

Omitting to speake of other Voyages I made thither, during the late Queenes Raigne, I will descend to later times.

In the yeere 1612, being in New-found-land, at which time that famous Arch-Pirate, Peter Easton, came there, and had with him ten sayle of good ships well furnished and very rich, I was kept eleuen weekes vnder his commaund, and had from him many golden promises and much wealth offered to be put into my hands, as it is well knowne: I did perswade him much to desist from his euill course; his intreaties then to me, being, that I would come for England, to some friends of his, and sollicite them to become humble petitioners to your Maiestie for his pardon: but hauing no warrant to touch such goods, I gaue him thanks for his offer; onely I requested him to releafe a ship that he had taken vpon the Coast of Guinnie, belonging to one Captaine Rathly of Foy in Cornewall; a man whom I knew but only by report: which he accordingly releafed. Whereupon I prouided men, victuals, and a fraught for the said ship, and so sent her home to Dartmouth in Deuon, though I neuer had so much as thanks for my kindnesse therein. And so leauing Easton, I came for England, and gaue notice of his intention, letting passe my Voyage that I intended for Naples, and lost both my labour and charges: for before my arriual, there was a Pardon granted, and sent him from Ireland. But Easton houering with those ships and riches vpon the Coast of Barbary, as he promised, with a longing desire, and full expectation to be called home, lost that hope, by a too much delaying of time by him who carried the pardon. Whereupon he sayled to the Straights of Gibraltar, and was afterwards entertained by the Duke of Sauoy, vnder whom he liued rich.

I was there also in the yeere 1614, when Sir Henry Manwaring was vpon that Coast, with fve good Ships strongly prouided; he caused me to spend much time in his company, and from him I returned into England; although I was bound from thence to Marfellis, to make sale of such goods as I then had, and other imployments &c.

In the yeere 1615 I returned againe to New-found-land, carrying with me a Commission out of the high Court of Admiraltie, vnder the great Seale thereof, authorising me to empannell Iuries, and to make

inquirie vpon oath, of fundry abuses and disorders committed amongst fishermen yeerely vpon that Coast, and of the fittest means to redresse the same, with some other poynts, hauing a more particular relation to the Office of the Lord Admirall.

What was then there done, by vertue of that Commission, which was wholly executed at my owne charge, hath been at large by me already certified into the high Court of Admiraltie. Neuerthelesse, seeing the same hath been ouerslpt euer since, and not produced those good effects which were expected, I will, in some conuenient place of this Discourse, set downe a brieue collection of some part of my endeauiors spent in that seruice; not doubting but it will be as auailable for the furtherance of our intended designe, as any other reason I shall deliuer.

In the yeere 1616 I had a Ship at New-found-land of 100. Tun, which returning laden from thence, being bound for Lisbone, was met with by a French Pyrate of Rochell, one Daniel Tibolo, who rifled her, to the ouerthrow and losse of my Voyage, in more then the summe of 860. pounds, and cruelly handled the Master and the Company that were in her: and although I made good prooffe thereof at Lisbone, and represented the same also to this Kingdome, as appertained, after my returne from thence; yet for all this great losse, I could neuer haue any recompence.

Shortly after my returne from Lisbone, I was sent for by a Gentleman, who about a yeere before, by a grant from the Patentees, had vnder-taken to settle people in New-found-land; he acquainted me with his designs, and after some conference touching the same we so concluded, that he gaue me a conueyance vnder his hand and seale for the terme of my life, with full power to gouerne within his circuit upon that coast; whereupon (being desirous to aduance that worke) in Anno 1618 I sayled thither in a shippe of my owne, which was victualled by that gentleman, my selfe, and some others. We likewise then did set forth another Ship, for a fishing Voyage, which also carried some victuals for those people which had been formerly sent to inhabite there: but this Ship was intercepted by an English erring Captaine (that went forth with Sir Walter Rawleigh) who tooke the Master of her, the Boatswaine, and two other of the best men, with much of her victuals (the rest of the company for feare running into the woods) and so left the Ship as a Prize, whereby our intended Fishing voyages of both our Shippes were ouerthrowne, and the Plantation hindered.

Now seeing it pleased your Maiestie many yeeres since, to take good

notice of the said New-found-land, and granted a Patent for a Plantation there, wherein many Honorable and worthy mens endeauours, and great charge therein, haue deserued good commendations (as is well knowne) the which I desire to further with all my best endeauours : and not to disgrace or disable the foundation and Projects of others, knowing they haue been greatly hindered by Pyrats and some erring subjects that haue arriued upon that coast ; it being indifferent to mee, whether there be a new foundation laide, or whether it be builded on that which hath already been begun ; so that the Plantation goe forward. Yet I may truly say, that hitherto little hath been performed to any purpose, by such as therein were employed, worthy the name of a Plantation, or answerable to the expectation and desert of the Vndertakers ; neither haue such good effects followed, as may be expected from a thorow performance hereafter. And seeing that no man hath yet published any fit motiues or inducements, whereby to persuade men to aduenture, or plant there ; I haue presumed plainely to lay down these following reasons, which is the principall end I aime at, whereby to further that worke so worthily intended, by prescribing fit means how a Plantation might be settled there ; and haue therefore undertaken it, as well to discharge my conscience, which hath often prompted me thereunto, as hoping thereby to stir vp many of your Maiesties good and religious Subiects duly to weigh the pietie, honour and benefit that will arise from such a worke, considering how your Maiesties Kingdomes doe abound and ouerflow with people. And although I haue often suffered great losses by Pyrates and Sea-Rouers, and other casualties of the sea, yet in this poynt, I haue tasted of Gods exceeding great mercy, that neuer any Ship, wherein I my selfe was present, miscarried, or came to any mischance, or any casualty of the Sea, whereunto all ships are subject : so as I may well say, that my life hath been a mixture of crosses and comforts, wherein neuerthelesse they haue not been so equally ballanced, but that the one hath ouerweighed the other : for now, after more than forty yeeres spent in the foresaid courses, there remains little other fruite vnto me, sauing the peace of a good conscience, which giues me this testimony that I haue euer been a loyall subiect to my Prince, and a true louer of my Countrey, and was neuer yet in all my time beholding to any Doctors counsell, or Apothecaries drugs, for the preferuation of my health ; and it will be to me a contentment, if I may be so happy as to become the instrument of any publike good heerein : And so I descend to the particular Relation of the Countrey, &c.



A CONCLUSION TO THE READER, CONTAINING A PARTICULAR  
DESCRIPTION, AND RELATION OF SOME THINGS OMITTED IN  
THE FORMER DISCOURSE.



DEAR Gentle Reader, seeing my former Discourse  
recieued such good approbation and allowance  
before it was printed, it puts me in some hope,  
it will also receiue good acceptance from all his  
Maiesties well-affected subjects, now that it is  
published: the which when I shall vnderstand  
by their thankfull acceptance, I shall be in-  
couraged the more willingly, to fet forth what I  
haue obserued touching the Altitude of some head-lands of that coast,  
on the East side of the New-found-land, and also the Deepes, and Seuerall  
foundings, that I haue taken notice of in my trauels to that Countrey;  
which I conceiue to be necessary for those that trade thither; which as  
yet no man, to my knowledge, hath vndertaken; and also be ready with  
my life and means whatseuer I haue, or may haue in this World, to  
discouer other Bayes and Harbours round about that land, which are  
yet undiscovered, whereby to finde out some other new Trades with the  
Natiues of the Countrey; for they haue great store of red oaker, which  
they vse to colour their Bodies, Bowes and Arrowes, and Cannowes  
withall, which Cannowes are built in shape, like the Wherries on the  
Riuer of Thames; but that they are much longer, made with the rinds of  
Birch trees; which they sowe very artificially and close together, and  
ouerlay euery seame with Turpentine; and in like manner they sowe



the rindes of Spruce trees, round and deepe, in proportion like a brasse kettle, to boyle their meate in, which hath been well proued by three Mariners of a Shippe, riding at Anchor by mee, who being robbed in the night by the Sauages, of their apparell and diuers prouisions, did the next day seeke after them, and came suddainely where they had set vp three Tents and were feasting, hauing three Cannowes by them, and had three pots made of such rindes of trees, standing each of them on three stones boyling with twelue Fowles in each of them ; euery Fowle as bigge as a Widgeon, and some so bigge as a Ducke : they had also many such pots so fowed, and fashioned like the leather buckets that are vsed for quenching of fire, and those were full of the yolkes of egges, that they had taken and boyled hard, and so dried small, which the Sauages vsed in their broth, as sugar is vsed in some meates : they had great store of the skinnes of Deere, Beauers, Beares, Seales, Otters, and diuers other fine skinnes which were well dressed ; as also great store of seuerall sorts of flesh dried ; and by shooting off a Musket towards them, they all ran away naked without any apparell, but only their hats on their heads, which were made of Seales skinnes, in fashion like our hats, fowed handfomely with narrow bands about them, set round with fine white shels, such as are carried from Portugall to Brazeile ; where they passe to the Indians as ready money. All their three Cannowes, their Flesh, Skinnes, Yolks of Egges, Targets, Bowes and Arrowes, and much fine Okar and diuers other things, they tooke and brought away, and shared it amongst those three that tooke it, and brought to me the best Cannowe, Bowes and Arrowes, and diuers of their Skinnes, and many other things worth the noting ; which may seeme to inuite vs to find out some other trades with them.

Now also I will not omit to relate something of a strange Creature that I first saw there in the yeere 1610, in a morning early as I was standing by the waterside, in the Harbour of Saint Iohns : which I espyed very swiftly to come swimming towards me, looking cheerefully, as it had been a woman, by the Face, Eyes, Nose, Mouth, Chin, Eares, Necke and Forehead : It seemed to be so beautifull and in those parts so well proportioned, hauing round about vpon the head, all blew strakes, resembling hayre, downe to the Necke (but certainly it was no haire :) for I beheld it long, and another of my Company also, yet liuing, that was not then farre from me ; and seeing the same comming so swiftly towards me, I stepped backe, for it was come within the length of a long Pike. Which when this strange Creature saw, that

I went from it, it presently thereupon diued a little vnder water, and did swim towards the place where before I landed ; whereby I beheld the shoulders and backe downe to the middle, to be as square, white and smoothe as the backe of a man, and from the middle to the hinder part, poynting in proportion like a broad hooked Arrow ; how it was proportioned in the forepart, from the necke and shoulders, I know not ; but the same came shortly after unto a Boate, wherein one William Hawkridge, then my seruant, was, that hath bn since a Captaine in a Ship to the East Indies, and is lately there imployed againe by Sir Thomas Smith, in the like Voyage ; and the same Creature did put both his hands vpon the side of the Boate. and did strue to come in to him and others in the said Boate : whereat they were afraide ; and one of them strooke it a full blow on the Head ; whereby it fell off from them : and afterwards it came to two other Boats in the said Harbour ; the men in them, for feare fled to land : This (I suppose) was a Maremaide. Now because diuers haue written much of Maremaids, I haue presumed to relate, what is most certaine of such a strange Creature that was seene at New-found-land : Whether it were a Maremaid or no, I know not ; I leaue for others to judge, &c.

R. W.



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